The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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In doing what we ought we deserve no praise, because it is our duty.—St. Augustine.

WHOLE NO. 1109. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 22, NO. 18.

Garner Defends Jobless Relief Bill Against Hoover's Attack

Speaker of House of Representatives Says Government Assistance Has Been Limited to Wealthy Corporations—Insists That Help Shall Now Be Made Possible for All Private Industry and Farmers.

Washington.—John N. Garner, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Democratic candidate for the office of Vice President of the United States, made a vigorous defense before the House of the Wagner-Garner unemployment relief bill in reply to President Hoovers' opposition to the measure.

President Hoover's major objection centered around the provision which increases the capital of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation $1,500,000,000 to be loaned to private industry and farmers on adequate security for the purpose of stimulating business and increasing employment.

Direct government loans to private industry carries the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor as a most necessary measure to start business and provide jobs.

Loans for the People

Mr. Garner said in part:

"Title two of the bill has for its purpose the lending of $3,500,000,000 to the people of the United States. That is the difference between the President and myself. Representative Rainey joined me.

"Back in February we passed what is known as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation bill at the urgent request of the President of the United States to take the place of a private corporation created by the bankers of this country to do the same thing that the R. F. C. does, except that it had no limitations on what it could loan money for.

Economic Desperation

We passed the act although we were hesitant. We knew that we were launching into a field that could but be defended upon the principles of the Constitution of the United States. But this country was in the throes of desperation, economically. And as the result we took it as the President wanted it, hoping and believing that it would restore confidence and prosperity.

Doubtful Results

"The corporation has been functioning now for three months. It undoubtedly has been of wonderful benefit to the country. Nobody can tell. Nobody knows how many banks would have their doors closed today had it not been for the corporation. I think it has been a benefit to the country, but it has not brought about the results we hoped for.

Benefits for All

"The issue between the President and Congress is this: We are going to broaden the base of this corporation. You say, Republicans, that the insurance companies, the joint-stock land banks, banks of all kinds and other corporate interests have been wonderfully benefited.

"We now propose in the House of Representatives to add $1,500,000,000 to the funds of this corporation, that much of the money of the people of the United States, and we propose to say that from henceforth there shall be no class legislation and no class borrowers, but that the whole resources of the United States are going to share in it.

Bond Interest vs. Homes

"How can you gentlemen sit here and have your lawyers rent out $2,500,000,000 and then say to a citizen in your State or to a private corporation in your State that wants to borrow money that have adequate security, and who intend the borrowing of that money to put labor to work—how can you say, sir, that the R. F. C. ought not to make the loan?

"How can you say that it is more important in this nation that the New York Central Railroad should receive the interest on its bonds in July and August of this year than it is to prevent the sale of 200,000 farms and homes in this republic?

End of Class Legislation

"I said to the President this morning as I said to him last night, 'I am through with class legislation. You want to provide this $2,500,000,000 and you want to give it to the railroads, the insurance companies, the mortgage companies and the interest wealth of the country.'

"The answer was: 'Why, all the people will get a benefit out of it.' My friends, it is too high. The drippings do not reach down to the earth.

R. C. F. Funds Belong to All Taxpayers

"I want to start at the bottom. I want these seven men who control this corporation to have the right to say that this money is placed into their keeping by all the taxpayers of the United States

"The railroad companies, the banks and the insurance companies do not pay all the taxes in this republic, so why should you go out and gather from all this audience here $2,500,000,000, then say we have got to take care of this small handful of people? Let all of them have the benefit of this whole some policy and leave out all the balance?

"The New York Central Railroad Company represents the highest type of securities in the United States prior to this depression. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has borrowed $27,500,000 and is paying 6 per cent interest on it when they used to sell their 4 per cent bonds at a premium.

Serve All the People

"Now, on the Democratic side, you may say, and some of you on the Republican side may think, that we ought not to trust this board with such a stupendous sum of money or with such broad, discretionary powers.

"My friends, if you are going to take that position, then there is only one consistent thing for you to do and that is to say that these seven men cannot be trusted either with respect to their patriotism or their intelligence, and then you ought to repeal the law.

Trust Only a Class

"You ought not to put this trust in the hands of men that you are not going to give an opportunity to serve all the people. Are you going to give them the opportunity to serve a certain class, or a certain interest.

"If you cannot trust them to lend to an individual or to a private corporation, why did you trust them to lend to the particular class enumerated in the present law? I say that if you can trust them to lend to the one and to exercise discretion in that particular, you can trust them to lend to all.

"I believe this is the safe thing to do. I believe it will be helpful to the country. I believe it will restore confidence even in the banks, because the people will know that they have not gone and they can get some money to keep from being closed out by those they owe, if they have adequate security.

Riots Feared

"I believe you have got to have some reservoir of relief, Federal in its nature, to which you are going to look in this country. You might as well be plain about this. I want to see the legislation passed, and therefore I am willing to make the concession. I am willing to surrender, and then I would like to give the assurance that Congress does not fear the whole people of the United States, while the President says, 'I will take my select seven people and I will take nothing in the way of relief.'"

Hoover Denounces Wagner-Garner Unemployment Relief Measure

President Says Extension of Government Loans to Individual Business Men and Private Industry Generally Is An Impossible Task—Also Opposes Direct Government Relief and Loans to States.

Washington.—President Hoover issued a denunciation of the Wagner-Garner unemployment relief bill as agreed to by the Senate and House conferees.

Out of a total of $2,100,000,000 authorized by the bill, $1,500,000,000 could be loaned through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, to private industry and agriculture for the purpose of increasing employment and protecting farmers. Self-liquidating projects were included in the bill.

President Hoover based his opposition largely on the provision authorizing loans to private industry and farmers. On this point he said in part:

"The provision to finance $1,500,000,000 self-liquidating construction projects for relief of unemployment completely reverses the position I had already made to the Congress.

Limit Government Loans

"The fatal difficulty is the Speaker's insistence upon provision that loans should also be made to individuals, private corporations, partnerships, States and municipalities for the purpose of work security and for every purpose. Such an enabling act as the United States Government makes the Reconstruction Corporation the most gigantic banking institution in history, in all history.

"There are 48 States and 16,000 municipalities who could under its terms dump their responsibilities upon the Federal Government. The purpose to take care of unemployment distress in such centers is provided for in the proposals of employment and loans to the States.

Danger in Helping Millions

"The Speaker's argument in no sense contributes to relieve such distress. It would compel the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to attempt to deal with millions of people in terms of hundreds of thousands of small and large loans. It would result in dumping a vast amount of doubtful private and municipal securities on the Federal treasury to no national purpose of relieving unemployment. It would require the extension of branch offices in every town and county in the United States and set up a huge bureaucracy able to dictate the welfare of millions of people and at the will of its agents deal favor and disaster amongst them.

Fears Discrimination

"No group of seven men can so organize as not to discriminate unfairly between competitive enterprises. There is no body of men who could physically administer such a gigantic project. The board of the Reconstruction Corporation, except one absent member, informs me unanimously that the making of loans to individuals is totally unworkable. It would undermine Federal credit and bring a vast increase in unemployment.

Task Is Too Large

"I wish to emphasize what it means. Such a proposal means that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is to take over an impossible task and the most difficult part of the banking business that is to deal with the doubtful credits in the whole United States. To carry out such a purpose it would be necessary, as I have said, for the board of seven men to set up branch banks in practically every community and to direct their operations from Washington. It would be dependent upon action in these thousand branches.

"The task of organization and of finding competent personnel would not be a matter of months, but of years. From an organization and administrative standpoint it is self-evident that the proposal is impossible of execution, and huge losses and great scandals must inevitably result from any attempt to do so.

"Any attempt to carry out such a law under these circumstances must mean the squandering of hundreds of millions of dollars of public funds. The board would be flooded with hundreds of thousands of applications. There would be serious interferences, if not a complete breakdown, of the vital activities it is now carrying on under high pressure.

Government Credit Jeopardized

"There is unquestioned need for the passage of legislation to take care of unemployment and such cases of destitution as the resources of the States are unable to meet. I have recommended such legislation. While I am determined that there shall be relief legislation at this session of Congress, I cannot accept the proposal up to now insisted upon by Speaker Garner as a condition to securing his support, for I am not prepared to see unemployment relief by such disastrous action as is now proposed through jeopardizing the whole credit of the Government and laying our people open to every kind of injustice and loss."

President Hoover also objected strenuously to the provisions of the Wagner-Garner bill placing $100,000,000 at his disposal for the direct relief of unemployment distress and $200,000,000 for loans to the States on a population basis.

New Zealand Abolishes Enforced Arbitration

Wellington, New Zealand.—The New Zealand Parliament abolished compulsory arbitration under which for 35 years industrial disputes have been automatically sent to the arbitration court on the failure of conciliation proceedings.

Now recourse may be had to the court only by the consent of a substantial majority of the employers representing workers and employers at the conciliation board. Under this exception no award is made. Compulsory arbitration on wages is retained, if conciliation fails, where the majority of workers in the union concerned are women.

The abolition of the arbitration law was urged by employers, including farmers, and opposed by the forces of organized labor, although labor is often been critical of the court.

From the beginning of the law some of the stronger and more militant unions believed they could guard their interests better by their own strength than through the court. In practice it was found that workers' unions could not be compelled to submit to compulsory arbitration except after costly strikes. Some of the unions openly disregarded the act and its machinery. But in fact their operations from Washington it would be dependent upon action in these thousand branches.

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Green Says Jobs for All Is Main Issue in This Year's Election

President of American Federation of Labor Asserts That Citizens Should Vote for Only Those Candidates Who Positively Declare Themselves in Favor of the Right to Work.

Washington.—In an editorial in the American Federationist on "The Coming Election," William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor says that the paramount position that voters should take for offices in the Federal Government who do not declare themselves for measures making jobs for all a reality. The editorial follows:

"Even though we may, for the most part, be unconscious of its functioning, the Federal Government is a most fundamental force, shaping and conditioning life for all of us.

"If we lose our confidence in, belittle and restrict our Federal agencies, we limit their capacity to serve our needs.

"At no time in our nation's history was good government more indispensable than now.

"At no time have governmental issues so directly affected problems of life and work as now.

"Of foremost importance to each are those representatives elected by the people to constitute the Senate and the House of Representatives to formulate national policies.

"Upon the wisdom and vision of these persons depend the ability of our nation collectively to discern the needs of our citizens and to determine how best to provide the required service.

"There is nothing mysterious about government or its techniques.

"It is an agency for coordinating action upon matters of collective concern.

"The executive and legislative functions are delegated to representatives of our choosing.

"It is concerned with the problems of living together, our intercourse with the peoples of other nations, collectively and as individuals.

"Practical principles are as simple as the facts of life.

"When they are befogged and complicated, it is because some one has been serving an evil purpose or the direct policies from the collective service to a special process that will give special privilege to a few.

"The United States and all other countries are confronted with emergency situations more dangerous than war.

"We are up to conquer abnormal powers that threaten institutions created by centuries of experience.

"The key to this situation is providing men and women with an opportunity to earn the necessaries of life.

"The problem is an elemental one.

"Progress in solving it has meant progress in civilization. We must again solve it for our ten and one-half millions of unemployed persons in the United States.

"At present it is not possible to solve this problem by normal methods. Individual employers and companies are unable to move against the world-wide drift.

"Only the Federal Government rests responsibility for finding how to make jobs available and having the program carried out.

"The pressing question to put to every candidate who asks to be elected to membership in our Federal Government is, How do you propose to make it possible for all to have jobs?

"Our reply to this question should decide whether the candidate deserves the confidence of the voters in the coming elections."

Self-Sustaining Public Works To Make Jobs for Unemployed

By HON. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
Candidate of the Democratic Party for President of the United States

The following statement on unemployment relief was made by Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt in his speech in Chicago accepting the nomination of the Democratic party convention for the office of President of the United States.

And now one word about unemployment, and, incidentally, about agriculture. It has favored the use of certain types of public works as a further emergency means of stimulating employment and the balance of hope to pay for such public works, but I have pointed out that no economic end is served if we merely build without building for a necessary purpose.

Self-Sustaining Public Works

Such works, of course, should, in so far as possible, be self-sustaining if they are to be financed by the issuing of bonds. So as to spread the public load all kinds as widely as possible, we must take definite steps to shorten the working day and the working week.

Let us use common sense and business sense, and just as one example we know that a very hopeful and immediate means of release, both for the unemployed and for agriculture, will come from a wide plan of the conversion of many millions of acres of marginal and unused land into timber land through reforestation.

Reforestation for Employment

There are tens of millions of acres east of the Mississippi River alone in abandoned farms and cut-over land, now growing up in worthless brush. Why, every European nation has a definite land policy and has had one for generations. We have not. Having none, we face a future of soil erosion and timber famine. It is clear that economic foresight and immediate employment march hand in hand in the call for the reforestation of these vast areas.

$150,000,000 for Relief In New York Next Year

Patchogue, Long Island, N. Y.—Public and private investment totaling $150,000,000 in State from Nov. 1, 1932, to Nov. 1, 1933, would cost $210,000,000, Walter W. Pettit, executive director of the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration for New York State, told delegates attending the annual convention of the New York Association of Public Welfare Officials here.

Declaring that private relief agencies have practically exhausted their means, he said that the $20,000,000 bond issue to be voted in November would be inadequate to provide relief and that the State was depending on receiving $30,000,000 annually from the Federal Government.

Jobs for One Million.

In so doing employment can be given to a million men. That is the kind of public works that is self-sustaining, and therefore capable of being financed by the issuance of bonds which are made secure by the fact that the application of tremendous crops will provide adequate security for the investment.

Yes, I have a very definite program for providing employment by that method. And it is the kind of program that is needed in the State of New York. I know that the Democratic Party can do it successfully for the Nation. That will put men to work, and that is an example of the action that we are going to have.

Work and Security

What do the people of America want more than anything else? In my mind, two things. Work with all the material and spiritual values that go with work. And with work, a reasonable measure of security—security for themselves and for their wives and children.

Work and security—these are more than words. They are more than a program. They are spiritual values, the true goal toward which our efforts of reconstruction should lead. These are the values that government is intended to gain. These are the values we have failed to achieve by the leadership we now have.

Man-Made Economic "Laws"

Our Republican leaders tell us economic laws—sacred, inviolable, unchangeable—produce these lawless panics which no one could prevent. But while they prate, men are starving, and women are starving. We must lay hold of the fact that economic laws are not made by nature. They are made by human beings.

Compulsory Retirement For Engine Drivers

London, Eng.—Officials of the Great Western Railway Company notified 280 of its locomotive engine drivers that they must retire because of the decrease of business. The men are between the ages of 64 and 65. The normal age of retirement is 65.

The men will receive a pension of one-fourth of their present wages plus a small amount from a superannuation fund. The compulsory retirement plays havoc with the economic plans of the engine drivers, all of whom expected to work until they were 65.

The men objected to the unusual sacrifice. A man of 63 will lose five years' wages, while a man of 64 will lose but one year's wages.

N. Y. PRINTERS BOOST ASSESSMENT FOR IDLE

President Hewson Says Union Has Paid $4,000,000 to Jobless Members in Two Years—2,600 Receive Unemployment Benefits.

New York.—Typographical Union No. 6 adopted by referendum the proposal to levy a special assessment of 5 per cent in addition to the present assessment of 10 per cent to increase the unemployed benefit fund.

Austin Hewson, president of the union, said the organization had paid out close to $4,000,000 to its unemployed members in the last two years.

Members employed full time in job printing plants are now paying 15 per cent of their salaries into the unemployment fund and printers employed in newspaper composition plants are paying their assessment by giving up one day's work a week to a substitute.

The adoption of the referendum will enable the union to keep up its out-of-work benefits by paying an extra month to the relief fund from the general fund and the local union's old age pension fund.

Compositors who have regular positions in newspaper plants will be exempt from benefit payments if they give up two days a week to substitutes. Those who have regular positions in job plants will be exempt from payments if they give up one-half day each week to two days' work a week.

The union, according to Mr. Hewson, is now paying 2,600 idle men unemployment benefits.

Government Blocks Postage Evasion by Corporations

Washington.—Officials of public utility companies and others have recently started an organized attempt to sabotage the Government by schemes to evade the increase in postage rates on first class mail from 2 to 3 cents.

The Post Office Department has blocked this scheme by pointing out that the **postal laws do not permit anyone to enter into competition with the postal service in carrying letters.** A company may use its employes for its own business, but two companies will not be allowed to **use the same employe nor hire a messenger or other delivery service to** deliver their bills.

Social Misery Increased By British Government

London, Eng.—George Lansbury, leader of the Labor party in the House of Commons, declared that the British Government by its stupid policy of starving the unemployed and their dependents, and its ruthless cutting down of the standard of living below social misery and robbing the death rate throughout the country.

New York Socialists Demand $75,000,000 for Idle Relief

Utica, N. Y.—The convention of the Socialist Party of New York State urged a special session of the New York Legislature to make available for immediate unemployment relief $25,000,000 raised through a 25 per cent increase in the income tax and declared that the bond issue this fall for unemployment relief should be $75,000,000 rather than $50,000,000. The convention also declared to organize unemployment leagues through local Socialist organizations.

TEACHERS' UNION STARTS ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN

Organized Labor Is Only Support Teachers Have Had in Fight to Preserve School Standards, Secretary Florence C. Hanson in Charge of Organization Work.

Chicago.—The American Federation of Teachers at its annual convention here determined to put into immediate effect plans for an intensive organization campaign. The work will be under the immediate direction of the secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Florence Cultan Hanson. Centers will be established in four sections of the country, Atlanta in the South, San Francisco for the Pacific Coast, St. Paul for the North Central, and Wilkes-Barre, Pa., for the East. From these centers workers will be under the direction of a district representative.

"The American Federation of Teachers is convinced" declares the official statement of the Federation announcing the campaign, "that the only hope for safeguarding public education from the onslaughts which are being made upon it at this time lies in the sound effective organization of teachers into local unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"It has found that all over the country the only support which the teachers' cause has received in their struggle to salary reductions, curtailment of the curriculum, increase in the school year, lengthening of the school day, increasing of the teacher load and all those things which make for the reduction of costs at the price of lessened efficiency and service to the children, has been from Organized Labor.

"The teachers of America are realizing their responsibility in this serious situation which jeopardizes the future of public education, and are now ready to take steps to resist those influences. The American Federation of Teachers through the plan which is being worked out will give the teachers the opportunity to work in a constructive movement to save our schools for our children."

Mrs. Hanson plans to give her time and services throughout the nation wherever she is needed next year, visiting Massachusetts first in September in an organization campaign. Reports upon the opening of the schools will present the cause of the teachers and public education to the American Federation of Labor at its annual convention in Cincinnati in November.

The American Teacher, the official publication of the American Federation of Teachers, will continue to be issued as an organ for bringing to the attention of teachers and the public the true situation in the schools. Mrs. Hanson is the editor-in-chief of this periodical.

New Jersey Relief Burden Will Increase, Barnard Says

Trenton, N. J.—Chester I. Barnard, State Director of Emergency Relief, warned county relief administrators that the State relief load would probably be more severe during the Fall and Winter than at present.

"Relief is being handled locally and will continue to be," Mr. Barnard said. "With the State helping those localities which are financially unable to handle the situation."

Mr. Barnard pointed out that under the New Jersey plan the State would reimburse a municipality of less than 10,000 population for all relief expenditures in any one month in excess of 10 cents per inhabitant up to an additional 10 cents per inhabitant. For expenditures in excess of 20 cents, it would reimburse the municipality for one-half the expenditures. Maximum normal grants would range up to 30 cents for municipalities having 50,000 or more inhabitants.

STEEL REORGANIZATION DOES NOT PROTECT LABOR

London, Eng.—The new movement for the reorganization of the British steel industry prompted by the Tariff Board recommendations has no provision safeguarding the interests of the steel workers, according to Arthur Pugh, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

The reorganization plan called for a broad scheme of national planning with security against "unfair competition." Mr. Pugh said, "It will devote its efforts to secure the election of public officials whose past record justifies this support. In a number of instances it will actively work to defeat the defeat of candidates for public office whose legislative or executive record is evidence that they have been reactionary on their attitude toward industrial and social questions and have seemingly been the representatives of special interests."

Mr. Frey recalled the origin of the present nonpartisan political policy of the American Federation of Labor, the experience of trade unions with independent political parties from the National Labor Union in 1870 and the Knights of Labor which followed it.

Nonpartisan Policy Adopted

From the establishment of the American Federation of Labor in 1881, political action was given serious consideration by the Federation.

"In 1893," Mr. Frey said, "the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor declared for the independent use of the ballot of trade unionists and was unanimous regardless of party."

"Commenting upon this policy in 1917, Mr. Gompers said: 'The one great advantage of the new political policy of the A. F. of L. has pursued, is that it has in no way lessened or detracted from the economic power or effectiveness of the trade unions.' Nonpartisan political activity does not subordinate the economic interests of the trade unionists to partisan interests, but our political policy has made our economic influence, our economic needs and requirements the paramount importance."

Mr. Frey reviewed the development and achievements of the American Federation of Labor's nonpartisan political policy, Mr. Frey said in part:

Vote Record of Congressmen

"For many years the American Federation of Labor has kept the record of men in Congress on all labor measures. This legislative record is sent to trade unionists throughout the country during election campaigns. It is their nonpartisan political guide. The same practice is carried out by State Federations of Labor. So that before the primaries are held, trade unionists and unorganized workmen have had placed before them the legislative record on labor measures of the candidates who are seeking reelection.

"This information has assisted wageearners in becoming familiar with their representatives' labor record, and has enabled them to understand that their nonpartisan political program gives them a balance of power and an effectiveness which in these United States of America has not been equaled by any politically partisan labor or any reform party which has been organized.

Nonpartisan Policy Applied to Judiciary

"The trade union movement's nonpartisan political policy extends beyond the legislative and the executive, and includes the judiciary where it is appositive to the authority which confirms. The influence of the judiciary is as far-reaching as legislation, and sometimes more so, for the higher courts have authority to declare legislation unconstitutional.

Labor Opposed Judge Parker

"A notable example of the nonpartisan political policy in connection with the appointment to the Federal Judgeship occurred not long ago. Judge J. J. Parker, a member of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, was nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court. While on the Circuit Court of Appeals he had handed down a decision in the Red Jacket Coal Company case, which vitally affected labor's rights and welfare. What is known as the 'yellow dog' contract was involved.

"Judge Parker, in his decision, had gone much further than any previous Federal judge, in that he had issued an injunction which restrained trade unionists from discussing the merits or demerits and the principles of justice involved in 'yellow dog' contracts. As soon as the wide publicity given to the case by the American Federation of Labor, Judge Parker's nomination failed of confirmation by the Senate.

Labor Defeats Injunction Senators

"Labor believed itself justified in holding the confirming power responsible. In the State primaries which followed, several Senators who had voted for confirmation were defeated for renomination. In the ensuing election, several Senators who had been successful in the primary were defeated on election day. Some of these were Republicans, others were Democrats.

"They were not held responsible because of their party affiliations, neither were the political parties held responsible for their votes in the Senate, but as individuals, regardless of their party affiliations. Their record was widely published so that trade unionists and right thinking citizens would be familiar with the facts before they went to the polls.

Trade Union Votes Not for Sale

"It should be emphasized for the information of the public, politicians and candidates for public office," Mr. Frey concluded, "that trade union votes can not be bought or sold; that no trade union official has the power to deliver trade union votes; and that the trade union movement can not be captured or controlled by any political party or herded together under any partisan political banner.

"Our trade union nonpartisan political policy has resulted in rejoicing the partisan bigotry and has fostered the political vision of so many wage earners in the past. It has broken the hold with which politicians had held American workmen to political parties regardless of their principles and men.

"Trade unionists have become partisan to principles instead of political parties. The American Federation of Labor has done much to give wage earners a better and better understanding to guide their political activities, and has played a foremost part in establishing the political methods which have weakened the power of the partisan political boss, and enabled citizens to enjoy a more direct voice in choosing public representatives and public representation.

Mr. Frey's address was the last in a series of ten broadcasts on the general subject "American Labor and the Nation" given under the auspices of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education with the cooperation of the American Federation of Labor and the Workers' Education Bureau of America. The first address in the series was given by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, on May 1.

Frey Praises A. F. of L.'s Nonpartisan Political Policy

Metal Trades Department Secretary Declares Independent Use of Ballot Has Won Notable Legislative Achievements for Labor —Vote Record of Legislators Determines Labor's Attitude— Injunction Judge and Senators Defeated—Trade Union Votes Not for Sale.

Washington.—"The American Federation of Labor will take an active part in the campaign this year as in years past," declared John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L., in a radio address over the Columbia network on "Labor in Politics."

"It will definitely refrain from endorsing any political party," Mr. Frey said. "It will devote its efforts to secure the election of public officials whose past record justifies this support. In a number of instances it will actively work to defeat the defeat of candidates for public office whose legislative or executive record is evidence that they have been reactionary on their attitude toward industrial and social questions and have seemingly been the representatives of special interests."

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"Commenting upon this policy in 1917, Mr. Gompers said: 'The one great advantage of the new political policy the A. F. of L. has pursued, is that it has in no way lessened or detracted from the economic power or effectiveness of the trade unions.' Nonpartisan political activity does not subordinate the economic interests of the trade unionists to partisan interests, but our political policy has made our economic influence, our economic needs and requirements the paramount importance."

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"This information has assisted wage-earners in becoming familiar with their representatives' labor record, and has enabled them to understand that their nonpartisan political program gives them a balance of power and an effectiveness which in these United States of America has not been equaled by any politically partisan labor or any reform party which has been organized.

Nonpartisan Policy Applied to Judiciary

"The trade union movement's nonpartisan political policy extends beyond the legislative and the executive, and includes the judiciary where it is appositive to the authority which confirms. The influence of the judiciary is as far-reaching as legislation, and sometimes more so, for the higher courts have authority to declare legislation unconstitutional.

Labor Opposed Judge Parker

"A notable example of the nonpartisan political policy in connection with the appointment to the Federal Judgeship occurred not long ago. Judge J. J. Parker, a member of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, was nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court. While on the Circuit Court of Appeals he had handed down a decision in the Red Jacket Coal Company case, which vitally affected labor's rights and welfare. What is known as the 'yellow dog' contract was involved.

"Judge Parker, in his decision, had gone much further than any previous Federal judge, in that he had issued an injunction which restrained trade unionists from discussing the merits or demerits and the principles of justice involved in 'yellow dog' contracts. As soon as the wide publicity given to the case by the American Federation of Labor, Judge Parker's nomination failed of confirmation by the Senate.

Labor Defeats Injunction Senators

"Labor believed itself justified in holding the confirming power responsible. In the State primaries which followed, several Senators who had voted for confirmation were defeated for renomination. In the ensuing election, several Senators who had been successful in the primary were defeated on election day. Some of these were Republicans, others were Democrats.

"They were not held responsible because of their party affiliations, neither were the political parties held responsible for their votes in the Senate, but as individuals, regardless of their party affiliations. Their record was widely published so that trade unionists and right thinking citizens would be familiar with the facts before they went to the polls.

Trade Union Votes Not for Sale

"It should be emphasized for the information of the public, politicians and candidates for public office," Mr. Frey concluded, "that trade union votes can not be bought or sold; that no trade union official has the power to deliver trade union votes; and that the trade union movement can not be captured or controlled by any political party or herded together under any partisan political banner.

"Our trade union nonpartisan political policy has resulted in rejoicing the partisan bigotry and has fostered the political vision of so many wage earners in the past. It has broken the hold with which politicians had held American workmen to political parties regardless of their principles and men.

"Trade unionists have become partisan to principles instead of political parties. The American Federation of Labor has done much to give wage earners a better and better understanding to guide their political activities, and has played a foremost part in establishing the political methods which have weakened the power of the partisan political boss, and enabled citizens to enjoy a more direct voice in choosing public representatives and public representation.

Mr. Frey's address was the last in a series of ten broadcasts on the general subject "American Labor and the Nation" given under the auspices of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education with the cooperation of the American Federation of Labor and the Workers' Education Bureau of America. The first address in the series was given by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, on May 1.